

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 251515 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 8320

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: LITGAZ USES CARROT- AND- STICK ON AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS

USIA PASS IEE

REF: A. MOSCOW 0538. B. MOSCOW 3228. C. MOSCOW 3989.

1. IN APPARENT EFFORT TO HASTEN DEPARTURE OF NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT JAY AXELBANK, LITGAZ APRIL 25 ATTACKS HIM PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY WHILE RUNNING HIGHLY FAVORABLE ARTICLE ON TIME CORRESPONDENT JOHN SHAW AND HIS RECENT COVER PIECE ON SIBERIA.

2. AXELBANK, PREVIOUS TARGET OF PRESS AND MFA PRESS SECTION CRITICISM (REFTELS A, B, C,) SINGLED OUT FOR " PRIMITIVISM," " LIES" AND " OPEN SLANDER" OF UNRELIEVED NEGATIVE REPORTING THAT HAS TRICKED AMERICAN READERS OVER PAST YEAR. BOTH HE AND NEWSWEEK ARE ACCUSED OF "' COLD WAR"' APPROACHED AND BELITTling RESULTS OF US- USSR AGREEMENTS. SIGNIFICANTLY OMITTED AT THIS TIME IS ANY REFERENCE TO EMIGRATION TAX OR JEWISH ANGLE STORIES.

3. WHOLE RANGE OF OFTEN UNDETAILED PERSONAL PECADDILLOS TROTTED OUT AS PROOF OF AXELBANK' S LOW CHARACTER,
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INCLUDING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS, BROKEN BULB, TAPE RECORDER INCIDENT.

4. DIRECT COMPARISON DRAWN BETWEEN AXELBANK' S NEGATIVE STORIES ON SIBERIA AND SHAW PIECE, WHICH COVERED SEPARATELY UNDER HEADLINE , " TIME OPENS SIBERIA." PRINTING COVER FACSIMILE AND SIX MAGAZINE PHOTOS, ARTICLE ASSUMES REASONABLE TONE IN CONCLUDING PIECE AND PHOTOS COULD HAVE BEEN TREATED OTHERWISE BUT DONE WITH " OVERALL WELL- INTENDED REALISM (THAT) REFLECTS A SEARCH FOR USEFUL APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET- AMERICAN RELATIONS." SHAW AND PHOTOGRAPHER HOWARD SOCHUREK ARE CITED BY NAME. TIME CREDITED WITH NOT LOOKING FOR NEGATIVE SIDE.

5. THIS BALANCING OF ARTICLES IS MOST EXPLICIT CARROT- AND- STICK APPROACH TO CORRESPONDENTS IN LONG WHILE. SHAW RECENTLY GIVEN FULL ACCREDITATION AND FAVORABLY CITED IN PRAVDA (REFTEL C) WHILE AXELBANK REMAINS ONLY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT STILL ON SHORT VISA LEASH. ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTS TO BE REPLACED BY SEPTEMBER HE HAS NO ASSIGNMENT YET.
DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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